

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-40 (Canceled)

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): A catalytic composition having a surface area $[=] \geq 380 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ and a pore volume $[=] \geq 1.10 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g}$ consisting of:

one or more oxides as a carrier and

a catalyst consisting of a beta zeolite, cobalt, a metal of Group VI B wherein said zeolite is present in a quantity ranging from 70 to 90% by weight, the weight percentage of cobalt varies from 1 to 10% with respect to the total weight of the catalyst, the weight percentage of the metal of Group VI B varies from 4 to 20% with respect to the total weight of the catalytic composition, and wherein cobalt and the metal of Group VI B are present in a molar ratio not greater than 2.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The catalytic composition according to Claim 41, wherein the beta zeolite comprises cationic sites that are occupied by hydrogen ions.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The catalytic composition according to Claim 42, wherein at least 80% of the cationic sites are occupied by hydrogen ions.

Claim 44 (Canceled)

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The catalytic composition according to Claim 41, wherein said zeolite is present in a quantity ranging from 5 to 30% by weight with respect to the total weight of the catalyst.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented): The catalytic composition according to Claim 41, wherein the metal of group VIB is molybdenum.

Claim 47 (Canceled)

Claim 48 (Previously Presented): The catalytic composition according to Claim 41, wherein cobalt is present in a quantity ranging from 2 to 6% by weight with respect to the total weight of the catalyst.

Claim 49 (Canceled)

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): The catalytic composition according to Claim 41, wherein the metal of group VIB is present in a quantity ranging from 7 to 13% by weight with respect to the total weight of the catalyst.

Claim 51 (Canceled)

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): The catalytic composition according to Claim 41, wherein cobalt and the metal of group VIB are present in a molar ratio no greater than 1.

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): The catalytic composition according to Claim 41, wherein the oxide comprises an element Z selected from the group consisting of silicon, aluminum, titanium, zirconium, and combinations thereof.

Claim 54 (Previously Presented): The catalytic composition according to Claim 41, wherein the oxide is alumina or alumina mixed with an oxide selected from the group consisting of silica and zirconia.

Claim 55-56 (Canceled)

Claim 57 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of a catalytic composition, wherein the composition comprises a beta zeolite, a metal of group VIB, cobalt, and one or more oxides as a carrier, comprising:

a) preparing an alcoholic dispersion comprising a soluble salt of cobalt, a beta zeolite, and one or more organic compounds capable of generating the supporting oxide or oxides;

b) preparing an aqueous solution comprising a soluble salt of the metal of group VIB, and optionally, tetraalkylammonium hydroxide having the formula R_4NOH ;

c) mixing the alcoholic dispersion and the aqueous dispersion to obtain a gel; d) aging the gel at a temperature ranging from 10 to 40°C;

e) drying the gel; and

f) calcinating the gel.

Claim 58 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 57, wherein the salt of cobalt is nitrate.

Claim 59 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 57, wherein the organic compound capable of generating the oxide is the corresponding alkoxide, wherein substituents of the oxide have the formula (R'O)- wherein R' is an alkyl containing from 2 to 6 carbon atoms.

Claim 60 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 59, wherein the alkoxide comprises an element Z selected from the group consisting of silicon, aluminum, titanium, zirconium, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 61 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 59, wherein a trialkoxide having the formula (R'O)₃Al is used, wherein R' is isopropyl or sec-butyl.

Claim 62 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 59, wherein a trialkoxide having the formula (R'O)₄Si is used, wherein R' is ethyl.

Claim 63 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 59, wherein a trialkoxide having the formula (R'O)₄Zr is used, wherein R' is isopropyl.

Claim 64 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 57, wherein the soluble salt of the metal of group VIB is an ammonium salt.

Claim 65 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 57, wherein the tetraalkylammonium hydroxide has the formula R_4NOH , wherein R is an alkyl group containing from 2 to 7 carbon atoms.

Claim 66 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of a catalytic composition, wherein the composition comprises a beta zeolite, a metal of group VIB, cobalt, and one or more oxides as a carrier, comprising:

- a) preparing an alcoholic dispersion comprising a beta zeolite and one or more organic compounds capable of generating the supporting oxide or oxides;
- b) preparing an aqueous solution comprising tetraalkylammonium hydroxide having the formula R_4NOH ;
- c) mixing the alcoholic dispersion and the aqueous solution to obtain a gel; d) aging the gel at a temperature ranging from 10 to 40°C;
- e) drying the gel;
- f) calcinating the gel; and
- g) impregnating the calcined product with a solution comprising a salt of a metal of group VIB, drying the impregnated calcined product, calcinating the impregnated calcined product, and impregnating the product with a solution of a salt of cobalt, drying the resultant product, and calcinating the resultant product.

Claim 67 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of a catalytic composition, wherein the catalytic composition comprises a beta zeolite, a metal of group VIB, cobalt, and one or more oxides, comprising:

- a) preparing an alcoholic dispersion comprising a soluble salt of cobalt and one or more organic compounds capable of generating the supporting oxide or oxides;
- b) preparing an aqueous solution comprising a soluble salt of the metal of group VIB, and optionally, tetraalkylammonium hydroxide having the formula R_4NOH ;
- c) mixing the alcoholic dispersion and the aqueous dispersion to obtain a gel;
- d) aging the gel at a temperature ranging from 10 to 40°C;
- e) drying the gel;
- f) mechanical mixing of the dried product with beta zeolite; and g) calcinating the mixture.

Claim 68 (Canceled)

Claim 69 (Previously Presented): The process of Claim 57, wherein the catalyst has a surface area of $\geq 380 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ and a pore volume $\geq 1.10 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g}$.

Claim 70 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of a catalytic composition, wherein the composition comprises a beta zeolite, a metal of group VIB, a metal of Group VIII, and one or more oxides as a carrier, comprising:

- a) preparing an alcoholic dispersion comprising a soluble salt of a metal of Group VIII, a beta zeolite, and one or more organic compounds capable of generating the supporting oxide or oxides;
- b) preparing an aqueous solution comprising a soluble salt of the metal of group VIB, and optionally, tetraalkylammonium hydroxide having the formula R_4NOH ;
- c) mixing the alcoholic dispersion and the aqueous dispersion to obtain a gel;

- d) aging the gel at a temperature ranging from 10 to 40°C;
- e) drying the gel; and
- f) calcinating the gel.

Claim 71 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 70, wherein the salt of the metal of Group VIII is nitrate.

Claim 72 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 70, wherein the organic compound capable of generating the oxide is the corresponding alkoxide, wherein substituents of the oxide have the formula (R'O)- wherein R' is an alkyl containing from 2 to 6 carbon atoms.

Claim 73 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 72, wherein the alkoxide comprises an element Z selected from the group consisting of silicon, aluminum, titanium, zirconium, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 74 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 72, wherein a trialkoxide having the formula (R'O)₃Al is used, wherein R' is isopropyl or sec-butyl.

Claim 75 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 72, wherein a trialkoxide having the formula (R'O)₄Si is used, wherein R' is ethyl.

Claim 76 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 72, wherein a trialkoxide having the formula (R'O)₄Zr is used, wherein R' is isopropyl.

Claim 77 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 70, wherein the soluble salt of the metal of group VIB is an ammonium salt.

Claim 78 (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 70, wherein the tetraalkylammonium hydroxide has the formula R_4NOH , wherein R is an alkyl group containing from 2 to 7 carbon atoms.

Claim 79 (Previously Presented): The process of Claim 70, wherein the catalyst has a surface area of $\geq 380 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ and a pore volume $\geq 1.10 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g}$.

Claim 80 (Previously Presented): The process of Claim 67, wherein the catalyst has a surface area of $\geq 380 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ and a pore volume $\geq 1.10 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g}$.

Claim 81 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of a catalytic composition, wherein the catalytic composition comprises a beta zeolite, a metal of group VIB, a metal of Group VIII, and one or more oxides, comprising:

- a) preparing an alcoholic dispersion comprising a soluble salt of the metal of Group VIII and one or more organic compounds capable of generating the supporting oxide or oxides;
- b) preparing an aqueous solution comprising a soluble salt of the metal of group VIB, and optionally, tetraalkylammonium hydroxide having the formula R_4NOH ;
- c) mixing the alcoholic dispersion and the aqueous dispersion to obtain a gel;
- d) aging the gel at a temperature ranging from 10 to 40°C;

- e) drying the gel;
- f) mechanical mixing of the dried product with beta zeolite; and
- g) calcinating the mixture.

Claim 82 (Previously Presented): The process of Claim 81, wherein the catalyst has a surface area of $\geq 380 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ and a pore volume $\geq 1.10 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g}$.

Claim 83 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 66, wherein the catalyst has a surface area [=] $\geq 380 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ and a pore volume [=] $\geq 1.10 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g}$.

Claim 84 (Previously Presented): A process for the preparation of a catalytic composition, wherein the composition comprises a beta zeolite, a metal of group VIB, a metal of Group VIII, and one or more oxides as a carrier, comprising:

- a) preparing an alcoholic dispersion comprising a beta zeolite and one or more organic compounds capable of generating the supporting oxide or oxides;
- b) preparing an aqueous solution comprising tetraalkylammonium hydroxide having the formula R_4NOH ;
- c) mixing the alcoholic dispersion and the aqueous solution to obtain a gel;
- d) aging the gel at a temperature ranging from 10 to 40°C;
- e) drying the gel;
- f) calcinating the gel; and
- g) impregnating the calcined product with a solution comprising a salt of a metal of group VIB, drying the impregnated calcined product, calcinating the impregnated calcined

product, and impregnating the product with a solution of a salt of a metal of Group VIII, drying the resultant product, and calcinating the resultant product.

Claim 85 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 84, wherein the catalyst has a surface area [=] $\geq 380 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ and a pore volume [=] $\geq 1.10 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g}$.

Claim 86 (Currently Amended): A catalytic composition having a surface area [=] $\geq 380 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ and a pore volume [=] $\geq 1.10 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g}$ consisting of

one or more oxides as a carrier and

a catalyst consisting of a beta zeolite, cobalt, a metal of Group VI B wherein said zeolite is present in a quantity ranging from 70 to 90% by weight, the weight percentage of cobalt varies from 1 to 10% with respect to the total weight of the catalyst, the weight percentage of the metal of Group VI B varies from 4 to 20% with respect to the total weight of the catalytic composition, and wherein cobalt and the metal of Group VI B are present in a molar ratio not greater than 2, prepared with a process consisting of the following steps:

a) an alcoholic dispersion is prepared, containing a soluble salt of cobalt, beta zeolite and one or more organic compounds capable of generating the supporting oxide or oxides;

b) an aqueous solution is prepared containing a soluble salt of the metal of group VI B and, optionally, tetraalkylammonium hydroxide having the formula R_4NOH ;

c) the alcoholic dispersion and the aqueous dispersion are mixed and a gel is obtained;

d) ageing the gel at a temperature ranging from 10 to 40°C;

e) drying the gel; and

f) calcinating the gel.